CLAIMS

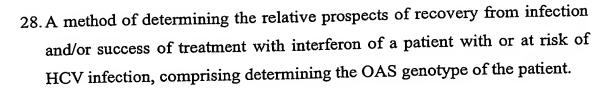
- 1. Use of a compound capable of modulating the level of activity of the OAS gene and/or activity of the OAS protein, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient with or at risk of hepatitis C infection, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA).
- 2. A method of screening for compounds for treating HCV infection, wherein a cell is treated with a test compound and any change in OAS gene activity and/or OAS protein activity or level is assessed, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA).
- 3. A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the cell is an animal cell.
- 4. A method as defined in claims 2 and 3, wherein the cell is a human cell.
- 5. A method of screening for compounds for treating HCV infection, wherein the effect of a test compound on the activity of OAS is assessed, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA)
- 6. A compound capable of modulating the level of activity of the OAS gene and/or activity of the OAS protein identified or identifiable from the methods of any one of claims 2-5.
- 7. Use of a compound as defined in claim 6 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient with or at risk of hepatitis C infection.

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- 8. Use of a compound capable of modulating the level of activity of the RNAse L gene and/or activity of the RNAse L protein, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient with or at risk of hepatitis C infection, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA).
- 9. A method of screening for compounds for treating HCV infection, wherein a cell is treated with a test compound and any change in RNAse L gene activity and/or RNAse L protein activity or level is assessed, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA).
- 10. A method as defined in claim 9, wherein the cell is an animal cell.
- 11. A method as defined in claims 9 and 10, wherein the cell is a human cell.
- 12. A method of screening for compounds for treating HCV infection, wherein the effect of a test compound on the activity of RNAse L is assessed, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA)
- 13. A compound capable of modulating the level of activity of the RNAse L gene and/or activity of the RNAse L protein as identified or identifiable from the methods of any one of claims 9 12.
- 14. Use of a compound as defined in claim 13 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient with or at risk of hepatitis C infection

- 15. Use of a compound capable of modulating the level of activity of the 2'-5' phosphodiesterase gene and/or activity of the 2'-5' phosphodiesterase protein, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient with or at risk of hepatitis C infection, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA)
- 16. A method of screening for compounds for treating HCV infection, wherein a cell is treated with a test compound and any change in 2'-5' phosphodiesterase gene activity and/or 2'-5' phosphodiesterase protein activity or level is assessed, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA)
- 17. A method as defined in claim 16, wherein the cell is an animal cell.
- 18. A method as defined in claims 16 and 17, wherein the cell is a human cell.
- 19. A method of screening for compounds for treating HCV infection, wherein the effect of a test compound on the activity of 2'-5' phosphodiesterase is assessed, wherein the compound is not an interferon or an isoprenoid, such as geranylgeranylacetone (GGA)
- 20. A compound capable of modulating the level of activity of the 2'-5' phosphodiesterase gene and/or activity of the 2'-5' phosphodiesterase protein identified or identifiable from the methods of any one of claims 16 19.
- 21. Use of a compound as defined in claim 20 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient with or at risk of hepatitis C infection.



- 22. Use of a nucleic acid which hybridises selectively to a OAS nucleic acid in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient with or a risk of HCV infection.
- 23. Use of a nucleic acid which hybridises selectively to a OAS nucleic acid in the manufacture of a diagnostic reagent for use in the assessment or diagnosis of a patient with or a risk of HCV infection.
- 24. The use of claim 22 or 23 wherein the nucleic acid comprises the polynucleotide sequence shown in Figure 1 or a fragment thereof, wherein the nucleotide sequence at 84bp into the untranslated 3' end of exon 8 is A.
- 25. The use of claim 22 or 23 wherein the nucleic acid comprises the polynucleotide sequence shown in Figure 1 or a fragment thereof, except that the nucleotide sequence at position 84bp into the untranslated 3' end of exon 8 is G.
- 26. A method of determining whether a patient with or at risk of HCV infection has an OAS1 gene in which the nucleotide sequence at position 84bp into the untranslated 3' end of exon 8 is G, wherein the method comprises the step of determining the OAS1 genotype of said patient.
- 27. A method as defined in claim 26 comprising the step of performing an allele specific PCR reaction using polynucleotides having or comprising the DNA sequences:- (1) CTCACTGAGGAGCTTTGTCT
 - (2) CACTGAGGAGCTTTGTCC
 - and/or (3) CAGGTGGGACTCTTGATCCAG.



- 29. The method of claim 28, comprising a method according to claim 25, 26 or 27.
- 30. A method of selecting a method of treatment of a patient with or at risk of HCV infection, comprising a method according to any one of claims 25 to 29.
- 31. Use of an OAS polypeptide in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient with or at risk of HCV infection.
- 32. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound, polynuclotide or polypeptide as defined in claim 6,14, 21, 22 or 31 and a physiologically acceptable excipient.
- 33. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32 further comprising a therapeutically appropriate quantity of an interferon.
- 34. The use of claim 6, 14, 21, 22 or 31 wherein the DNA sequence of the OAS1 genes of the said patient are as defined in claim 25.
- 35. A method of treating a patient with or at risk of HCV infection by administering a therapeutically appropriate quantity of a pharmaceutical composition according to claims 33.
- 36. A pharmaceutical composition or a kit of parts comprising (1) (a) a compound that is capable of modulating the level of activity of the OAS1

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gene and/or activity of the OAS1 protein, and/or (b) a compound that is capable of modulating the level of activity of the RNAse L gene and/or activity of the RNAse L protein, and/or (c) a compound that is capable of modulating the level of activity of the 2'-5' phosphodiesterase gene and/or activity of the 2'-5' phosphodiesterase protein, and/or (d) a recombinant polynucleotide as defined in claim 22, and (2) a therapeutically appropriate quantity of an interferon, for example an interferon-α, for example interferon-α8, and optionally (3) a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.